

Lansing Emmaus Community Footprints



Number 10-1

December, 2009 - January, 2010

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EMMAUS YEAR IN REVIEW

IMS - The biggest change for Lansing area Emmaus is not so easily seen. As part of our leadership training we must be able to have better access to the information needed to fill the auxiliary and team positions. The information had to be easily updateable and accessible to more than one person. In years past, one person had access to all the information, which was maintained on an Excel database. Copies of the information was doled out to those on team selection, and auxiliary and kitchen heads. When information was updated it wasn't updated on each of the databases, so inevitably the information got lost or not updated. Then there was the problem of passing the information from board member to board member and the frustration that came with not having updated information. The IMS database has relieved that frustration. The board purchased the Internet based program and it was up and running in February of this year. It has made member information available to all the board, Walk Lay Directors, Auxiliary Heads and team selection, all at the same time. It's easy to update and does much more than just keep track of members of the Emmaus Community. I have nothing but good things to say about it.

Walks during the past year - Lansing Area Emmaus has held three walks, one Men's Walk and two Women's Walks. Both the spring walks were full. The Fall Walk had 25 pilgrims. We have planned for four Walks in 2010. The key to making a Walk successful is leadership and planning. A friend of mine from the Community told me the other day she was asked by someone in her church to take care of a funeral meal. It was kind of last minute and she did a great job. What was important was that someone commented that they were surprised at how well she handled the event. She told me it was because of what she learned in Emmaus that she was able to plan and handle the task. Planning is one aspect of leadership training we are here to learn. The other is understanding servanthood. That is why Lansing Area Emmaus has done so well filling up the Walks. We understand servanthood. Remember, we have four Walks to plan for so lets start now. Pray now to ask God how he wants you to serve in the Community this next year.

Other important things that have happened over the past year. Recently, we as a Community filed our Articles of Incorporation. This means that our organization will be recognized by the state as an official organization. This is essential to obtaining 501(c)3 status. What this will mean for us is that we will be a non-profit, charitable organization. As such, donations will be tax deductible and the Community won't have to pay taxes on items purchased for a walk, making the money have go farther.

In addition to pursuing tax-exempt status, the Board has taken steps to solidify the relationship between Flight of Hope Chrysalis and Lansing Area Emmaus. We did this at the encouragement of the Upper Room and I believe it will be beneficial for both communities. Chrysalis is the primary outreach program of Emmaus. It is my prayer that both organizations will feel an enhanced sense of stability and interdependence. Because of this merger members will see gradual, minor, changes in how LAEC handles sponsorship training, Gatherings and other functions at the Board level. Because of this merger I see a bright future for both organizations, especially in 2010.

In His Service,
Russ

IN THIS ISSUE:

Here's what you can expect to find:

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| <p>✠ Page 2: Board information; Board Election Results, Chrysalis Connection</p> | <p>✠ Page 3: The Advent Conspiracy</p> <p>✠ Page 4: The Emmaus Store & Upper Room; Who Should Come to What Activities</p> | <p>✠ Page 5: Increased Walk Fees: Why; What Emmaus Means for the Local Church</p> <p>✠ Page 6: Upcoming Events</p> |
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LANSING AREA EMMAUS BOARD CONTINUING

Name	Position	Phone	E-mail	Expires
Rev. Terri Bentley	Asst. Community Spiritual Director			2010
Rev. Greg Buchner	Asst. Community Spiritual Director	989-621-7782	gb@clergy.net	2010
Russ Fries		(810) 625-5296	r.fries@mi.ftpd.us	2010
Scott Lobert				2011
Roger Silverthorn				2010
Barb Tyler				2010

Please Note: Our Spiritual Directors are members of the Board one year at a time, and are eligible to continue on the Board .

YOUR EMMAUS BOARD

Come join us at our next meetings at 7:00 P.M. on Tuesday, February 9, and Tuesday, March 9, at Pilgrim UMC. (The January Board meeting will be at the Board retreat.) Board meetings are always open to any Community member who wishes to attend. Do you have concerns or suggestions? Call or e-mail Russ Fries, our Community Lay Director, or any Board member and we'll be sure you get included in the agenda. Please prayerfully consider being a member of one of the Board Committees. All Board members have committees to help them do the work. There is more than one person can do. Join us in service.

BOARD ELECTION RESULTS

I would like to thank all of you who took the time to vote for the Board of Director Nominees. Those elected were; Mike Walker, Bill Jenkins, Ed Milam, Barb Moss, Kathy Dobie, Bob Haddad, Ryan Cressman, Robert Archambault, Judy McPherson, Deb Bongard. Unfortunately, Bill Jenkins has had to withdraw due to schedule conflicts. Fortunately, Karen McLendon has agreed to become a Board Member as was appointed by the Board to fill Bill's unexpired term of one year. We welcome each person to the Board of Directors and thank them in advance for there unselfish commitment to serve our Lord in His work. We also thank you, our community for faith in us to serve.

Roger Silverthorn,
ACLD and Nominations Committee Chairman

Editor's Note: You will notice in the "Board Continuing" table, that there are fewer names in this issue of "Footprints." Also, there are no position assignments except for Spiritual Directors. Pastor Becky Morrison has joined the Spiritual Director team for 2010. Welcome, Pastor Becky.

The newly elected Board members and the continuing Board Members will gather in retreat in January and as a group will elect officers for the coming year, and will also discern the responsibilities of Board members. Updated Board Information will be published in the next issue of "Footprints," the February - March issue. The information may be posted earlier on our Website. This is another good reason to check out our Website. (see page 6 for the Web address.)

CHRYSALIS CONNECTION

De Colores Everyone,

I would like to introduce myself. My name is Jean Herrick. I took my Walk in October 2004 in Grass Lake, Michigan and sat at the table of Ruth. This year I am the Public Relations person for Flight of Hope Chrysalis and I would like to ask for your help. Flight of Hope Chrysalis covers four Emmaus communities (Lansing, Kalamazoo, Jackson and Grand Rapids). There must be hundreds of teenagers who would be interested in and would benefit from a Chrysalis Flight, but we are struggling to get the minimum for one Flight each for guys and girls each year. We found in our church that when the adults talked about Chrysalis the kids zoned out, but when my daughter came back from her flight and told them about it, they became very interested. So we would like to send an adult and a teen to any youth group who is willing to invite us. Here is where we need your help. Your youth leaders do not know us, but they know you. They would probably be much more open to having us come and talk if the request comes from someone they know. If you would talk to them and give them my email we can set something up. The Girls' Flight is this spring. I would love to see it full so we can think about increasing to two Girls' Flights a year and with your help I believe we can. goldberry@herrickmi.us

THE ADVENT CONSPIRACY

Pastor Greg Buchner, ASD

Have you heard? There's something going on in the midst of the underground. A group of Jesus folk has decided that Christmas should be different this year. More specifically, Christians should look at Christmas differently this year.

The www.adventconspiracy.org website says it clearly, "The story of Christ's birth is a story of promise, hope, and a revolutionary love. So, what happened? What was once a time to celebrate the birth of a Savior has somehow turned into a season of stress, traffic jams, and shopping lists? And when it's all over, many of us are left with presents to return, looming debt that will take months to pay off, and this empty feeling of missed purpose. Is this what we really want out of Christmas? What if Christmas became a world-changing event again?"

Oh, my Emmaus sisters and brothers, it's not too late. We can still change the world by worshipping more fully, spending less trivially, giving more relationally, and loving all more intentionally. If you were at the December gathering you heard these words, but for those who weren't let me explain.

First, this worship thing. Did you know that we were created to worship? Created in the very image of God, we were given free will and the ability to think so that we could give praise to our God willingly and with purpose. This is the quality act of worship. Unfortunately, many focus on quantity. The examples of such are too numerous to mention here. But to be about the quality act of worship, completely selling ourselves out for the Babe in Bethlehem, that continues the conspiracy.

Second, the spending less trivially thing. Instead of buying five-six-or-seven gifts try one-two-or-three. Again, not enough space here, but I invite you to check out another website, www.giving101.org. On it you'll find the white envelope project and some other awesome materials around spending less. Folks, it's that old familiar tune which a different ending, "Jesus loves us this I know...and we don't need Walmart to tell us so!" Again, give gifts most definitely, but cut back! Honestly, do you still have what you were given last year? Do you even remember what you were given? Is your giving honoring the One whose birthday we're celebrating?

Third, the giving more relationally thing. Did you ever notice that everyone who came in contact with the Babe in Bethlehem had a word of praise and joy on their lips? From Elizabeth, to Mary, to the angels, to the shepherds, to the wise men to the prophets in the temple, everyone, and I do mean everyone, was praising God for such a great Gift. So what do you think Jesus would want for His present? Maybe, just maybe, it's more about presence than presents. How can we give of ourselves to others? Maybe instead of that gift certificate to Applebees, why not invite them over to your home for a meal. Maybe instead of another unwanted tie or sweater, we take a family and get them the clothes they need or the food to fill their cupboards. That type of giving relationally continues the conspiracy.

Fourth, the loving more intentionally thing. Jesus was once asked what God wanted most from us. He answered, "Love your God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength and love your neighbor as yourself. The whole law is summed up in these." Has this loving God and loving one another even entered our Christmas celebration or has it been regulated to the Christmas program and Christmas Eve Candlelight service? The conspiracy is that Jesus came to love, heal, and forgive. Is there any better way to celebrate His birthday than to love those in and outside of our church this Christmas?

Bottom line...Christmas can [still] change the world, but only if we let it. May you worship fully, spend less, give more, love all and join the conspiracy, so that your Christmas won't be less than last year's, but oh so much more! DeColores!

THE EMMAUS STORE & THE UPPER ROOM

Pastor Greg Buchner, Bookstore Board Rep

The store has been restocked and we are open for business. In it you'll find a variety of LAEC apparel as well as some other gift and supply items.

Along with the store, we're excited to announce that a link to the Upper Room Bookstore is available on the Website (www.lansingemmaus.truepath.com) and on the IMS Website under IMS Common files: (http://laec.inetmember.com/default_LAEC.aspx).

Why? Because we believe that the Upper Room has a better selection of quality Emmaus discipleship resources available (www.upperroom.org/bookstore), and we want each of our members to develop their Fourth Day with the abundance of opportunities they offer. Check them out and you'll see what we mean!

This past year, I've been blessed to serve with a great bunch of folks working hard to bring you the best store and best resources possible for our Community, and we could always use more if you're interested! Questions? Just give me an email: gb@clergy.net or contact me at 989-9621-7782.

DeColores

WHO SHOULD COME TO WHAT ACTIVITIES IN THE LANSING AREA EMMAUS COMMUNITY?

Barbara Moss, Walk #44, May 2000 incoming board member 2010 to 2012

Monthly Gatherings: Everyone is welcome at the monthly gatherings. Community members and everyone else is welcome. Family and friends of community members, people anticipating attending a 3-day weekend, and children, too, are all welcome. There is often child care available at the monthly gatherings. Please contact the Gathering Coordinator from the Board so arrangements can be made if you choose to bring your children.

Walk to Emmaus Weekends—(the whole 72 hour enchilada). Besides the pilgrims, everyone else present at the Walk site from Thursday afternoon to Sunday evening (or any portion(s) of that weekend) should be a Community member who has attended some sort of 3-day weekend and is helping on the Walk in some capacity. **Candlelight and Closing are great events on the weekend and are part of the weekend experiences for the pilgrims, sponsors and Community members.** People who have not participated in a "Fourth Day Movement Experiences" such as a Walk to Emmaus, a Presbyterian Pilgrimage, a DeColores weekend, a Cursillo, a Tres Dias, a Chrysalis, a Teens Encountering Christ, a Great Banquet, or any other 3-day weekend of this nature should not be present. People who have attended one of these weekends are understood to be "community members". People who have had a Keryx weekend should **not** attend events on Walk to Emmaus weekends until they have been a pilgrim on a Walk to Emmaus or another, equivalent experience as mentioned above. But everyone is welcome at monthly gatherings.

Sponsors. Sponsors need to attend several events on a weekend for their pilgrim. The opening meal and Sponsors' Hour on Thursday, Candlelight on Saturday, and Closing on Sunday. Please, only sponsor pilgrims when you can personally perform sponsor duties. Community members serving in the conference room on a particular Walk should not be sponsors themselves on that Walk. Please find someone else to sponsor a pilgrim you've invited on the Walk if you are working in the conference room. Co-sponsoring is a good option to provide each pilgrim with a full weekend experience if one sponsor is working in the conference room, or has other time issues on a weekend, but is willing to do follow-up sponsor activities for that particular pilgrim. Please notify the Community Lay Director if circumstances require special attention—such as child care or handicapped access of people attending—in connection with Thursday, Saturday evening or Sunday afternoon.

INCREASED WALK FEES: WHY? (AND WHAT'S THE GOOD NEWS?)

In a review of the last walk's budget, the Board noted an overall financial loss. During the last Board meeting the Board increased the Walk fees by \$25.00, from \$75 to \$100 per pilgrim. The increase was prompted because of the increase in operating costs for the Walks, yearly fees for permits and licensing for kitchen use, and other maintenance operating costs. It should be noted there hasn't been an increase in Walk fees for more than five years. It was understood by the Board that this is quite a jump in the price, however, the Board was advised by the Upper Room it is much cheaper than other Communities in our region. In an effort to keep our cost low and affordable for pilgrims and sponsors, a discounted price of \$80 for early registration (30 days prior to a Walk.) Registering early by placing a deposit will lock in the discounted price. Scholarships will still be offered to those pilgrims who can not afford to go on a Walk. They will be awarded by the registrar.

In His Service,
Russ

WHAT DOES EMMAUS MEAN FOR THE LOCAL CHURCH?

In the last couple of newsletters I have written from a perspective how an individual can be blessed to be a part of an auxiliary team. When we work on a team we build community with each other sharing our gifts and talents, well there is a benefit for the church where the walk is held as well. By church I mean both the building and the people who worship in the building, recently we held a walk at Holt United Methodist Church in Holt Michigan, we faced many challenges at this walk right from the beginning, most involved the sharing of space between a very busy Sunday morning worship schedule, and a day care operation that closed off a large portion of the building to us Thursday and Friday. Then add to this confusion about what is Emmaus and why do we operate the way we do and you have obstacles to overcome.

Emmaus is a worldwide community, on any given weekend there are hundreds of Walks being held simultaneously, not all are held in church buildings, some have buildings or campgrounds that are specifically made to hold a Walk to Emmaus. The Lansing Area Community chooses to hold their Walks in local church buildings for a couple of reasons, such as cost savings that we pass on to Pilgrim and workers as well. Another reason we hold our walks in the local churches can be summed up in this letter we received from Rev. Dr. Glenn M. Wagner, Pastor of Holt United Methodist Church

God bless you and thank you for your service on the Emmaus Walk here in Holt. Know that your witness for Christ has been noticed around here and we were thrilled for what was accomplished for our Lord this past weekend.

This morning, our building was buzzing. Our custodian was grateful because nagging electrical issues had been repaired. Our day care cook was smiling because the ovens haven't been this clean in a long time.

One of the pilgrims from here was smiling because of the new fire for Christ that has been rekindled in her soul.

Our financial secretary was excited about the generous offering received to help the "Give a Kid a Coat" program buy blankets for needy children.

Our attendance secretary was excited about the largest attendance since Mother's day and everyone commented about what a wonderful thing Emmaus is to introduce people to the love of Jesus.

We are grateful for your role in this witness and honored to have you worship with us. Know that you are always welcome. We pray that your experience of being in Holt was as positive for you as it was for us.

God bless your continuing witness through Emmaus.

Sincerely, Rev. Dr. Glenn M. Wagner, Pastor

We hope you will be a part of bringing this kind of blessing to the churches in Carson City in March and Ovid in October of next year. Scott Lobert, your site selection and auxiliary coordinator

Upcoming Events

January 12, 2010 Lansing 7:00 Board Meeting, Pilgrim U.M.C., St. Johns.

January 15 Lansing Gathering. Pilgrim U.M.C., St. Johns. Gather at 6pm, Potluck at 6:30, Worship at 7 P.M., Sponsorship Training at 8 P.M.

February 12, Lansing Gathering. Potterville U.M.C., 105 N. Church St., Potterville. **Note change of location!** Gather at 6pm, Potluck at 6:30, Worship at 7 P.M., Sponsorship Training at 8 P.M.

March 4-7, Lansing Men's Walk #75, Carson City U.M.C., 119 E. Elm St., Carson City.

March 6 Lansing In lieu of a monthly Gathering, we will gather at Candle Light at Carson City U.M.C. 119 E. Elm St., Carson City. 7:00 P.M. Sponsorship Training; 7:30 Gathering; 9:00 Candle Light Service begins.

March 18-21, 2010 Lansing Women's Walk #76, Carson City U.M.C., 119 E. Elm St., Carson City.

March 20 Lansing In lieu of a monthly Gathering, we will gather at Candle Light at Carson City U.M.C. 119 E. Elm St., Carson City

April 9 Lansing Gathering. Pilgrim U.M.C., St. Johns. Gather at 6pm, Potluck at 6:30, Worship at 7 P.M., Sponsorship Training at 8 P.M.

May 14, 2010 Lansing Gathering. Potterville U.M.C., 105 N. Church St., Potterville. **Note change of location!** Gather at 6pm, Potluck at 6:30, Worship at 7 P.M., Sponsorship Training at 8 P.M.

June 1, 2010 Lansing Deadline to have a minimum of 20 men registered for Men's Walk #77

LOOKING AHEAD:

September 10, 2010 Lansing Gathering. Potterville U.M.C., 105 N. Church St., Potterville. **Note change of location!** Gather at 6pm, Potluck at 6:30, Worship at 7 P.M., Sponsorship Training at 8 P.M.

October 7-10, 2010 Lansing Men's Walk #77, United Church of Ovid. This is the first time we are having a Men's Walk in several years. Be sure to sign up early!

October 21-24, 2010 Lansing Women's Walk #78, United Church of Ovid.



Newsletter Deadline for Next Issue

If you have an idea for a story, please let me know by
January 31, 2010. Contact Harry Wallin
(517) 566-8452 owltalker@centurytel.net

VISIT OUR WEBSITE:

www.lansingemmaus.truepath.com

IMS Database: Link from our Website using Internet Explorer

Pilgrim U.M.C.
Lansing Area Emmaus
2965 West Parks Road
St. Johns, MI 48879

Non-Profit Organization
U.S.. Postage
St. Johns, MI
Permit #16